Ministry. There have been regular interactions with the international travel industry and media through the Indian Missions and Indiatourism offices overseas. Familiarisation tours to India for international travel trade and media representatives have been arranged to keep them updated on the safety /security conditions in different parts of the country.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTION

Anti-sea erosion works in Maharashtra

107. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for National Coastal Protection Project seeking Central assistance to construct anti-sea-erosion bunds along the coastline to protect it from erosion;

(b) if so, when the proposal was received and the present status thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the approval of the project and release of grants thereunder the anti-sea-erosion works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Water being a State subject, works for anti-erosion measures are taken up by the respective State Governments from their own resources and according to their own priorities. However, realizing the severity of sea-erosion problems in certain critical reaches of the coast line and on the recommendation of National Coastal Advisory Committee, a proposal for National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP) was conceived with a view to seek external funding. Accordingly, an approach paper was prepared on the basis of details received from various maritime States and sent to Planning Commission in July 2004 in this regard. This, *inter-alia*, included the proposal from Govt. of Maharashtra for Rs. 193.80 Crores.

In March 2005, the Planning Commission forwarded the proposal to Department of Economic Affairs for posing it to an appropriate Agency for external funding. After due consideration, the Department of Economic Affairs forwarded the same to the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Review Mission (1-12th December, 2006) of the ADB in their Aide Memoire recommended to take up the work in the States of Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.

The Fact Finding Mission of ADB (18th April - 7th May, 2007) recommended to extend Project Preparatory Technical Assistance (PPTA) and indicated that the Technical Assistance (TA) would support the National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP) by assisting the States of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra in preparing technically, economically, environmentally and socially viable investment proposals to address Coastal Erosion and introduce procedure for Sustainable Coastal Protection and shore line management.

An agreement has already been signed between ADB and the Department of Economic Affairs in respect of PPTA. The consultant engaged by the ADB has undertaken the task for preparation of the project to cover the States of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra. A High Level Steering Committee

under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources has been constituted to monitor/review the progress of Technical Assistance implementation and provide necessary guidance for successful implementation of Technical Assistance. The first meeting of the High Level Standing Committee was held on 20th November, 2008.

Contractual employees at airports in Gujarat

108. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware about the State Government of Gujarat Contract Labour Board's decision taken in the year 2001 in the matter of General Motors who were authorized to employ contract labour with a condition that workers will be paid wages (basic, DA and other allowances) as well as other facilities such as uniform, shoes, canteen, bonus, leave benefits, etc. similar to permanent workers; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the contractual workers at various airports in Gujarat are not paid wages and other facilities as mentioned above in spite of clear-cut order of Labour and Employment Department of the State Government of Gujarat, date 16th July, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India outsources works of sporadic nature which are carried out through engagement of contract workers. These workers are being paid the prescribed minimum wages and other statutory benefits as per the notification of the Appropriate Government under the provisions of Minimum Wages Act.

Air services in the country

109. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air services in North India, East India and North East India;

(b) the plans to strengthen these services in near future;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be involved therein; and

(d) the likely impact on the overall prosperity of those regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) All the operational airports in the North, East and North-East India are air linked with the scheduled air services, the details of which are as follows:

North India (as per FIR boundary)

Agra, Allahabad, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Dharmashala, Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Gwalior, Jaipur, Jammu, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Kanpur, Khajuraho, Kullu, Leh, Lucknow, Pathankot, Shimla, Srinagar, Thoise, Varanasi and Udaipur.

East India (as per FIR boundary)

Bhubaneshwar, Gaya, Jamshedpur, Kolkata, Patna, Ranchi and Port Blair.

North-East India (as per FIR boundary)

Agartala, Aizwal, Bagdogra, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Guwahati, Imphal, Jorhat, Lilabari, Shillong and Silchar.